The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the individual, legislative, and judicial trend and considers other matters of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It's Not Too Early!
REGISTER NOW
VOTE IN 1950

WHOLE NO. 2009 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 41

Irving Brown Sees World Situation Worsening; Urges Strong Labor Action

St. Paul.—The international situation has quickly taken a very serious turn for the worse, Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe, told the 68th AFL convention.

He said the new democratic world labor organization to be formed in London starting November 28 by the AFL and other free trade union movements must move swiftly and purposefully to defeat the Soviet Union's menacing moves against world peace.

Brown said the new world labor movement must begin immediately to:

1. Resist and throw back the attempts of the Cominform to utilize the labor movement in order to achieve the objectives of the Soviet Union.

2. Deal with the economic and political problems that the Communists have forced upon the workers in various parts of the world.

"This new world labor movement," Brown said, "will either be an aggressive, dynamic, fighting world labor movement for the restoration of free trade unionism, or it will not succeed in the light of the present world situation which is so charged with war and aggression."

Brown said the London conference has attracted delegates from more than 35 countries representing more than 45,000,000 trade unionists. He said the AFL has played a great role in bringing about this new labor movement and will play a great role at the London congress.

These are the "grave and critical" developments which Brown said threaten new wars:

1. The Chinese Communists march continues unchecked and is beginning to dominate entire southeast Asia and the whole Far East is ablaze with a very hot war.

2. Western Europe and England are on the eve of having been in the process of going through grave economic developments.

3. On the borders of Yugoslavia the Soviet Union is engaging in warrattling moves that Hitler himself never engaged in without going to war; Eastern Europe is being whipped into a totalitarian system under Soviet domination.

4. Communistic infiltration continues in the western European trade union movement and threatens the economy of France, Italy and all democratic countries of Western Europe and our own.

"We stand in the shadow of a new world treachery and the cold war is being dangerously transformed into a new, seemingly warm temperature," Brown said. "Once again the world is in danger of war. Once again aggression is threatening from a single totalitarian system, and once again it is my opinion that in the world the labor movement must speak up and act now or face the inevitability of a new and more horrible world conflict.

Brown said that despite the gloomy situation, some progress was made in the past year in the fight against totalitarianism. He said communism has been hit hard and suffered defeats in every front in western Europe.

But let no one have any illusions in the light of the world political situation in the light of Communist strength on the western European continent," Brown said. "The clock read lies ahead. The road is mined with every kind of treachery, strength, although diminished, remains a threat to the security of Europe with grave economic problems ahead.

He said that specifically the new world labor movement must help France and Italy to keep their unions free of Communist control; work against an alliance of German nationalism and Communism; assist trade union leaders in exile from countries behind the Iron curtain; work for an economically unified western Europe, and battle communism in the Far East.

Hungarian Union Leader in Exile Calls Communists Worse Than Czars

St. Paul.—Charles Peyer, Hungarian trade union leader and former cabinet member now in exile, told the 68th AFL convention that Hungarian communism is a far more vicious imperialism than the czars of Russia ever dreamed of.

He said that Moscow has taken over his native Hungary and installed a system which has put a stop to free workers. He said the living standard is constantly falling and the system spends up the workers and creates class differences much greater than under the old capitalist system in Hungary. The bureaucracy, he said, far exceeds the old one and commits so many horrors against the workers that it is impossible to relate them in detail.

Peyer impressed the delegates with a simple recital of how he had been ousted by the Hungarian socialist-Communist system for his trade union relationship, how he was thrown into a labor concentration camp, and has since been forced to flee the persecution of the communists. He compared himself to Leslie Biju, who escaped the communist regime as minister of the Interior.

"Going over things," Peyer said, "I find that Leslie Biju is in a better position than Laszlo Rajk himself, who never opposed the regime but was their minister of Interior, one of the pillars of the system and who would have been sentenced to death and will be hanged, if at least one still exists."

Peyer said the communist system hates liberty and democracy.

"That is why every honest person must combat it," he said. He is a leader of the Union Publique Française in Exile headquartered in Paris. This movement is composed of trade union leaders exiled from the communist controlled countries behind the Iron curtain and other countries where these leaders are unwanted.

Peyer described some of the factory conditions in Communist Hungary.

"There is a spy to every 10 workers who is forced to report on the conversation of another in all that happens or is said in the workshop," he said. "If a worker makes even a remark about the higher-ups, or is too slow in his work, or starts to return home after his work is done, he gets a summons to appear before the police who can call himself lucky if he gets away with a reprimand. If he does not, he is not tried before the so-called people's court but is known to the workers and that is why they distrust each other and hate the system.

He said that in present-day Hungary people live in fear of the jail for years without being tried and sentenced.

Peyer said the working day is officially 8 hours but that workers are required "voluntarily" to put in extra hours and that there is constant pressure to study Russian and attend political seminars "so that workers can only rarely get home to their families and have 2 or 3 days free evening."

Peyer told how the Russians took over his country and warned others of the danger.

"Those who think that their countries cannot be invaded by the Soviet Union are mistaken. We have thought we could resist it. There were people that thought that they could strike a bargain with this system. The results of such efforts were sham trials.

"Under peace propaganda slogans the communists have taken over and are now engaged in turning their armies into fighting machines against the West, even Hitler himself tried as many treacherous tricks as the present regimes employ in order to dupe the workers."

Labor Press Pledges All-Out Effort To Elect Friendly Congress in 1950

St. Paul.—Editors of AFL papers threw their full efforts behind the election of a friendly Congress in 1950.

Frank R. Powers, editor of the Commercial Telegraphers Journal, promised the convention AFL convention that the labor press "shall endeavor to fulfill" the pledge to the labor movement to secure the election of a friendly Congress.

Powers' appearance before the convention was historic because it was the first time in the 38 years of the International Labor Press of America that the organization was represented by a fraternal delegate.

"We have been given a challenge to show the effectiveness of the labor press both in organizing and in educating the workers and their families," Powers said. "We have pledged ourselves to show even the most skeptical that the labor press can do a good job in the organizing, educational and the political field for labor."

He reported that the 191 AFL newspapers represented by the labor press organization has a combined circulation of 2,000,000. He said these papers will boost all celebrations held next year, such as the 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, AFL founder.

PRESENTS LLPE CHECK

St. Paul. — President William Schoenberg of the Cement Lime and Gypsum Workers, presented a check for $3,100 to Labor's League for Political Action during the 68th annual convention as the balance due on the 10-cents-per-member assessment this year. He pledged the union "will do just as well or better as far as the voluntary $2 contribution is concerned."

AFL Orders Drive For A Million More Members; Backs Free World Labor; New T-H Repeal Drive

Vigorously Pushes World Labor Federation; Urges Strengthening of Democratic Forces In Europe, Asia and Latin America

St. Paul.—The 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor unanimously threw its full support into the formation of a new democratic world labor federation and declared for a United States foreign policy to strengthen the free peoples all over the world.

These are the highlights of the AFL international questions:

1. Creation of a new world trade union movement to smash free democratic trade unions of the world into a powerful federation to oppose communist efforts to infiltrate the trade union movement and to wipe out slave labor.

2. Provide military aid to Asia and China to repel Communist aggression and economic aid to strengthen Europe on a continental scale.

3. Withhold friendship from any nation supporting totalitarian governments in Latin America.

4. Throw the full resources of this country into President Truman's "point 4" declaration to supply technical assistance to the underdeveloped areas of Asia, Latin America, Africa and other parts of the world.

WARN AGAINST RUSSIAN APPEASEMENT

Summarizing the critical international situation, the convention statement of policy asserted that the atomic monopoly of the United States has violently contrasted the peaceful world.

"We firmly warn against any attempts to revive a policy of appeasement of Soviet imperialism at this critical juncture," the AFL said.

The AFL called the Communist totalitarian system "a robotized, monolithic despotism stretching from Berlin to beyond the Yangtze."

"This Red tyranny is further opposed by a vigorous fifth column operating in all free countries under various names, colors and covers," it said. "These are the hidden allies of aggression and the enemies of liberty.

FOR STRENGTHENING EUROPE ON CONTINENTAL SCALE

The convention approved the progress of the Marshall Plan for aid to Europe and commended the leaders who have participated in Washington to strengthen Britain's economic position.

"We hope," the AFL said, "that we will be spared to unite the tanks, pool the strength, and weld the economies of Europe on a continental scale in the interest of vanquishing poverty, totalitarian tyranny and the danger of war."

The AFL declared (1) against further reparations and dismantling of productive facilities in Germany; (2) for a strong Western Europe; (3) for military interference by this government in the domestic affairs of the countries of Europe; (4) for the Atlantic Security Pact; (5) for a policy by the Economic Cooperation Administration to encourage a policy of improving living standards in proportion to the Marshall Plan; (6) the highest praise for recognition by Ambassador-at-large Averell Harriman and Economic Administrator Paul Hoffman of the principles of labor representation in formulating and executing the European recovery program.

OPPOSING ANTI-LABOR REGIMES IN LATIN-AMERICA

The AFL noted the hearings made by the Inter-American Confederation of Workers in rallying and organizing workers south of the Rio Grande for improved standards of life and the progressive development of human rights. It called particularly satisfying the decisive defeat of the communists under Lombardo Toledano.

"There remains," the AFL said, "the serious task of defeating the mounting wave of antilabor and anticonstructive forces under the totalitarian leader of Peron in Argentina and the dictatorships in Peru and Venezuela. These reactionaries of the right have in recent months been guilty of ruthlessly violating the basic democratic rights and liberties of labor.

"Our government would be well-advised to show NO friendship for or make any concessions to these bearers of totalitarian dogmas and deception among our good neighbors to the south."

The government was urged to denounce and disapprove profiteering practices in Latin America by greedy corporate American interests.

MILITARY AID AGAINST COMMUNISTS IN FAR EAST URGED

The AFL called upon the United States to "adopt a policy of cooperation with all democratic groups in Asia.

It noted that Communist Russia is ruthlessly exploiting the noble desires of the masses of Asia for national freedom and human dignity.

"Just as we rallied a ball to the democratic forces there to turn back the clock of progress in Asia, so must we now do everything in our power to prevent the Russian imperialists and their Asiatic lackeys from exploiting the awakened spirits and suffering bodies of the peoples of Asia," the AFL said.

SWIFT UNITED STATES ACTION PROPOSED IN FAR EAST

The AFL proposed an immediate long range program of affirmative action by the United States for China and the whole Far East, as follows:

1. Keep imperialist hands off the awakened peoples of Asia, and through the United Nations, our own force and development of completely free, independent and democratic republics throughout Asia.

2. Support the Asian Relations Conference recently called by democratic India, and the Philippines and New Zealand as a positive step toward unifying the free nations of Asia.

3. Give prompt and vigorous support to a regional pact under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter composed of freedom-loving lands of the Pacific and Far East.

4. Refuse diplomatic recognition or to enter into commercial relations with the Communist quisling regime now ruling China and support the legitimate authority over large areas of China.

5. Invite a peace conference headed by Acting President Li Tsung-jen to the United States to work out plans immediately for effective aid to strengthen economically and militarily the democratic and labor forces of China.

6. Give all-out support to the Chinese delegation in the United Nations to have the UN investigate and bring to an end the Russian role in fostering and financing the civil war in China, flagrantly violating its solemn treaty obligations with China and the principles of the United Nations.

7. Appoint a special commission with adequate labor representation to prepare in cooperation with representatives of Asia the full application of President Truman's "point 4" in the underdeveloped areas of Asia.

SPEEDY "POINT 4" PROGRAM URGED

The AFL supported President Truman's "point 4" program "to help the free peoples of the world, through their own efforts, to produce more food, more clothing, more materials for housing and more mechanical power to lighten their burdens." It called for swift implementation of this policy.

The AFL proposed the following "guiding principles" for the United States for implementing and applying "the great ideals and creative policy underlying President Truman's historic point 4":

1. Demonstrate to the peoples of the underprivileged regions that our interest is free from any desire to exploit or oppress them or to seek any special privileges.

2. Have expert as well as assisting nations cooperate in formulating plans and contributing towards development of suitable projects which will provide commodities and services most needed by the peoples displaced or disturbing the resources of the other nation.

3. Avoid interference in each other's domestic affairs or political life and no infringement of respective sovereignty.

4. Draw in more than one country in undertaking these developments wherever possible but under no circumstances must the exercise of the veto power be permitted to paralyze or thwart operations.

5. Accompany the technical aid with measures for advancing the health, sanitary conditions, education and technical knowledge so that native working populations can learn the art of developing their own mines, farmer and consumer organizations as well as industrial and distributive efficiency.

6. Advance a healthy social foundation and structure where no racial discrimination or forced labor are tolerated.

7. Place the dominant control and principal ownership of important projects in the hands of the country aided so as to avoid the evils of absentee ownership.

8. Join with other governments in working out an international code to reduce to a minimum the present risks and difficulties of foreign investment—nationalization, exchange and convertibility into the national currency of the investor. Provide reasonable guarantees for private investments.

9. Give the respective free trade unions adequate representation on all important planning and project commissions "in order to help insure the attainment of these goals and the maximum cooperation and support by the working peoples concerned in each instance."

Strike Benefits Increase Voted

St. Paul.—Strike benefits for members of federal labor unions were boosted to $10 per week for a period of 10 weeks.

The constitutional change was voted unanimously by the 68th AFL convention on recommendation of the committee on laws.

The new section provides that when a strike has been initiated under sections 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the constitution the AFL shall pay for a period of 10 weeks $10 per week for each member of the bonded officers of the striking federal union.

No benefit shall be paid for the first 2 weeks of the strike. The Executive Council is given authority to make strike benefits for a period longer than 10 weeks.

The present benefits are $7 per week for 6 weeks.

URGE COUNCILS FORM HOUSING COMMITTEES

St. Paul.—Each Central Labor Council in the United States is urged to form a local housing committee "to maintain particular vigilance in the coming year" in handling housing problems.

That decision of the AFL convention said these committees should:

1. Take an active interest in local public housing and slum clearance projects under the new housing law making certain that organized labor is fully represented.

2. Follow developments in rent control programs to see that the interests of families is protected.

3. Maintain interest in labor's "middle-income" housing program.

AFL REDUCES STRIKES BY GOOD RELATIONS

St. Paul.—AFL unions have reduced strikes to a minimum by good voluntary industrial relations.

The committee on industrial relations of the 68th AFL convention reported that practically all federation agreements now in working under well-planned contracts which operate smoothly because of the voluntary understanding and good will which has been obtained after many years of sincere and honest negotiation between representatives of our trade unions and fair employers.

Strikes and lockouts, with a consequent loss of production," the committee said, "have been reduced to a minimum because of this voluntary machinery. Industrial relations prevailing among the cooperative international unions affiliated with the AFL and management."

RUTZ REPRESENTS AFL AS GERMAN UNIONS MEET

St. Paul.—Henry Rutz, AFL representative in Germany and Austria, left the 68th AFL convention to represent the AFL at the organization meeting of the International Trade Unions in Munich, Germany, Oct. 12-13.

Rutz told the AFL convention that the new postwar German organization has 6,000,000 members in 16 industrial unions, making it second in size only to the Soviet Union's Trade Union Congress.

He said the new federation faces the big problem of presenting a united front to the communists, attempting to roll back prices, to expand social security, to secure adequate legislation on government boards, to change the civil rights program, to meet present regime from perpetuating itself, to integrate 2,000,000 refugees and to get a greater share in administering Marshall Plan aid.

Rutz said the recent western German elections were a victory for a coalition dominated by big business, "the leaders have been active and up to now have not shown too much activity or interest in the work of building towards a real German democracy," he said. "This reactionary coalition does not represent the will of the majority of the German people. You have here a situation similar to the one in United States where a reactionary Congress is flouting the wishes of the majority of its citizens."

Rutz reported that if the policies of the new German government are going to be those of the big industrialists and reaction, that a situation will be created in which communism thrives. He said it is important that the AFL maintain its support of the free German trade union movement.

MINISTERS WELCOMED

St. Paul.—Ministers representing the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America attended sessions of the 68th convention and were welcomed by AFL President William Green.

January Rallies Will Start Gompers Memorial Organizing Campaign Supporting New Demand To Kill Slave Labor Law

St. Paul.—The American Federation of Labor ordered a two-pronged drive for 1950 to organize a million new members and to repeal the Taft-Hartley law by electing a liberal Congress.

Winding up its 68th annual convention, the AFL wielded this strong platform of action as the basis for its domestic front in a program of world action backing up the formation of a new democratic free international trade union organization and supporting the United States foreign policy to repel communism and fascism in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The convention sounded a cry for a new battle against the Taft-Hartley law. Its repeal was listed as the paramount issue of a broad 1950 platform. The convention's closing sessions brought these outstanding declarations:

1. Plans to start in January a drive for a million new members as a fitting memorial to Samuel Gompers, first AFL president, and to coordinate it with the political education campaign for repeal of Taft-Hartley and election of a liberal Congress.

2. Adoption of an international relations program supporting formation of a new free democratic world labor federation next month in London and urging against appeasement of communism and fascism anywhere.

3. Unanimous re-election of AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and all other members of the Executive Council.

4. Adoption of proposals to the Senate to liberalize the social security bill passed by the House of Representatives; to get congressional enactment of a federal national health program, and repeal of taxes on sales, payrolls, amusements.

5. A change in the convention meeting time to the third Monday in September, instead of October, with invitations to go to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami in 1950.

6. Speeches by Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson and Maritime Commissioner Chairman Philip Fleming, praising AFL cooperation in building the national defense, the merchant marine and cooperation with the government.

7. Endorsement of a shorter work-week to spread jobs and reduce unemployment.

8. Further moves to induce the International Association of Machinists to affiliate with the AFL and to merge all organized labor under the AFL banner.

LINK ORGANIZING-POLITICAL DRIVES AS GOMPERS MEMORIAL

The convention action adopting a million new members as a fitting memorial was a means of paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Gompers on the 100th anniversary of the birth in 1850 of Mr. Gompers, and a new declaration of political activity with the expansion of organization among the unorganized.

"These two gigantic efforts," the convention said, "cannot help but increase the prestige and membership of the AFL and, at the same time protect the welfare and democracy of all organized workers."

The AFL expressed disappointment with the failure of the 81st Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley law in the session which ended on the mandate given by the 1948 elections.

"If the 81st Congress persists in its refusal to act affirmatively," the convention said, "we are prepared again to take our appeal to the people of this country and to make Taft-Hartley repeal the paramount issue of the 1950 congressional election campaign.

"Though defeated in our first attempt because our adversaries had a few more votes in Congress than we, it is our determination to redouble our efforts in wiping out this majority and elect to Congress men who will heed and carry out the will of the people. Borrowing a phrase from President Truman's message to this convention, Taft-Hartley repeal is America's unfinished business now, not the business alone of the labor movement, but that of every liberal-minded citizen of our land."

ALL OFFICERS REELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and the 13 vice presidents were unanimously reelected by acclamation.

In accepting election for the 50th time, Mr. Green recalled that when he first was called to the post of AFL president, he was 31 years old and inexperienced. He recounted the nation's cycle of wars and economic changes during which the AFL grew from 1,700,000 to 8,000,000 members.

"The cause of labor is a religion to me," Mr. Green said. "I shall give in the future as in the past all I have, all my service for the good of labor."

The delegates gave him a standing ovation.

The election climaxed the highly successful convention featured by a succession of important guest speakers, many of whom were high-ranking union officials into many affairs in St. Paul, Minneapolis and surrounding cities.

Weary delegates took a final night session to answer out the final planks in the AFL's progressive 1950 platform. Here is a thumbnail summary of some of the more important planks:

Economic developments—Devaluation of the pound sterling by Great Britain and 22 countries "is a disturbing development" but the nations in the country have occurred with unpredictable consequences but our free enterprise economy can meet the challenge. We realize that it is a grave separation.

National health insurance—It now appears that Congress may adopt certain portions of the administration program, as outlined in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, for a national health program. The AFL must continue to emphasize the urgent need that the health problems of the working people will not be adequately met except through a comprehensive and all-inclusive system of prepaid health insurance, to be established on a national basis and geared to the ability-to-pay principle.

Housing—Labor representatives and members are urged to tell neighbors, friends and associates and the labor press to publicize the AFL's Taylor-Lesinski-Rains broadcast giving the names of the 147 citations of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Jurisdictional disputes—Formerly divided the labor movement have largely disappeared and whatever of conflict may remain is overshadowed by the fact that more than ever before in our country's history labor not only here at home but in other lands as well. The road is considerably smoothed for the merger of the CIO with the AFL and the unification of all organized labor under the banner of the AFL. The AFL should continue its efforts toward early unification.

Israel—The State of Israel was greeted upon its arrival among the family of nations and its peaceful and democratic development applauded for the tremendous obstacles overcome in the past year. The American people have the record of encouraging the free democracies.

World Federation of Trade Unions—Not the slightest excuse exists for any self-respecting trade union to maintain membership with the discredited Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions. An alternative is available in the free democratic trade unions of France, Italy and Israel to lose no time in severing themselves from the WFTU. Labor pledges moral and material support to a new World Federation of Trade unions to make it a powerful instrument for lasting peace.

AFL Picks September For Convention Month

St. Paul.—The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held each year on the third Monday of September.

This change in the constitution was voted by the 68th AFL convention unanimously to enable the 8,000,000 members to take a more active part in the political campaigns. In recommending the change, the convention committee said:

"In order that all members and officers of the AFL may, in the future, give full participation to the very necessary political activities of organized labor during the weeks immediately preceding election day, the executive council recommends that the constitution of the AFL be amended in order that future annual conventions of the AFL should be convened each year on the third Monday in September instead of the first Monday in October."

By unanimous vote, the 68th convention adopted a new Section 1, of Article 3, of the constitution providing:

"The convention of the federation shall meet annually at 10 a.m. on the third Monday in September at such place as the delegates have selected at the preceding convention."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

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AFL Convention at Work

Cement Workers Give $3,100 to LLPE

George Meany (left), secretary-treasurer of the AFL and Labor's League for Political Education, receives check for $3,100 for the league from President William Schoenberg of the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers Union during St. Paul convention.

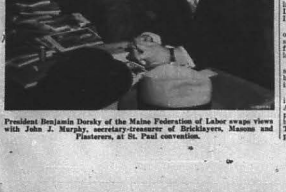
Dubinsky Greets Chicago Group

David Dubinsky (second from left), president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and AFL vice president, chats at St. Paul convention with (L to r.) Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education; William Lee, Chicago Federation of Labor, and Morris Biala, ILGWU vice president, all of Chicago.

Union Presidents Discuss Point

Herman Winter (left), president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union and chairman of committee on adjustments at 68th AFL convention, discusses a point with James M. Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters.

Maine President Swaps Views With Bricklayer



President Benjamin Dorsky of the Maine Federation of Labor swaps views with John J. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, at St. Paul convention.

AFL Extends Backing to British Labor; Green Lashes Reactionary Critics

St. Paul.—The AFL extended the hand of friendship and understanding to the workers of Great Britain in their efforts to solve successfully their postwar economic crisis.

Delegates to the 68th annual convention applauded President William Green's declaration that statements in the reactionary press of this nation critical of the government of Great Britain are not in accord with the AFL's point of view.

And the convention gave a tremendous round of applause to the two fraternal delegates from the British Trade Unions Congress for their explanation of the crisis being mastered by Great Britain's workers and their appeal for continued understanding and good will from the people of America.

The British delegates were Lincoln Evans, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and a member of the general council of the TUC, and Tom Williamson, president of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers and former member of parliament.

Mr. Green responded.

"It is the fixed and unalterable purpose of this great organized labor movement in America, the American Federation of Labor, to serve day in and day out in the promotion, maintenance and perpetuation of friendship, good will, understanding and cooperation between the workers of Great Britain and the workers of the United States," he said.

Mr. Green noted the statements of the reactionary press, columnists and radio commentators critical of the government of Great Britain.

"Right now I want to state publicly," he said, "that we are not in accord with that point of view. The people of Great Britain have a right to shape, formulate and carry out their own economic and political policies free from interference from the outside anywhere. Whatever form of government you may so establish we shall say you have the right to do so, so long as it is not a totalitarian form of government."

Mr. Evans said that Great Britain is attempting to carry through a great social experiment in human welfare which he said is the central question of this century.

"We think you can throw around every family a ring of social services to protect them against the full hazards of sickness, accidents and unemployment," he said. "Some people call this the welfare state. Well, what is wrong with the welfare state? Surely it is the obligation of every government in the world to seek the welfare and well-being of its people above every other consideration."

Mr. Evans said this can be achieved by the socialist government in Great Britain without the trade union movement being in the government's pocket.

"We support the government," he said, "but we remain independent and will continue to do so."

Mr. Williamson said that Great Britain is "making a magnificent recovery" and has come far since 1945 when Winston Churchill called the government "broke" and "bankrupt."

He related how production has increased, agriculture expanded, imports cut below prewar levels and exports boosted.

"So when next you come across a Jeremiah who would have you believe that Britain is finished, don't believe it," Mr. Williamson said. "Those who held that view in 1914 and 1939 lived to regret their error."

Robert Rintoul, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, said that his organization is again urging on its government "the early institution of a complete cradle-to-the-grave social security scheme" and a national health service.

"We want this to be established on a contributory basis so that everyone will feel that he has a share in it and that they thereafter be in no stigma attached when retirement comes and the unemployable unable or when, at other times, other benefits become available," he said.

Rintoul said that critics of these proposals on account of their cost are answered by the fact that "we cannot cost our economy has to bear is the ill health of our people."

Rintoul, who is a member of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes and vice-president of the Calgary, Alberta, Trades and Labor Council reported that the Canadian congress at its September convention ousted the Communist-controlled Canadian Seamen's Union and adopted a constitutional provision forbidding any communist from holding office.

Anti-Labor Weekly Urges Business Use Strikes to Sell the Public Against Unions

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—A little less than a year ago, that bible of the National Association of Manufacturers, Business Week, highly influential industry magazine, in a long editorial a few weeks after the fall of Thomas E. Dewey, in November, 1948, wrote:

". . . the Taft-Hartley Act conceivably could wreck the labor movement."

Titled, "Why the Taft-Hartley Law Failed," the Business Week confessional declared:

"By going that far, the law defeated itself."

But today, specifically, in an editorial October 8, 1949, Business Week says very clearly that the steel and coal strikes prove that the Taft-Hartley law does not go far enough. It now wants a ban on industry-wide bargaining.

Business Week has called for a businessmen's crusade to annihilate the labor movement.

That is the only way to interpret the position of this ideologue of American industry which has now at last ago admitted:

"What was wrong was that the Taft-Hartley Act went too far. It crossed the narrow line separating a law which aims only to regulate from one which could destroy."

"Given a few million unemployed in America, given an administration in Washington which was not pro-union—and the Taft-Hartley Act conceivably could wreck the labor movement."

Well, Business Week didn't mean what it said so penitently 10 months ago. Like Shakespeare's Duke of Gloucester,

"And thus I clothe my naked villainy
With old odd ends, stolen forth of holy writ;
And seem a saint when most I play the devil."

The recidivist Business Week in its latest editorial position entitled, "A Longer View of the Myth of Union Invincibility," says:

"It should now be evident to everyone that, while an important first step, the Taft-Hartley Act is not the full legal code needed to stabilize the labor front.

"The events of this week demonstrate that it should be supplemented by a ban on industry-wide bargaining."

Business Week has forgotten that it once said that "the Taft-Hartley Act did fail—one of the most important grounds by which a law must be judged in a democratic society. That ground is consent. Only the police state can enforce a law which is believed to be unjust by the people it affects."

Today, Business Week writes: "Many people took the Taft-Hartley Act as the definitive answer to labor problems. They felt that the passage of that statute redressed the obvious imbalance which existed between the bargaining power of unions and management. They felt that the law established sufficient safeguards for the public interest in labor disputes."

Ten months ago, by way of illustrating its editorial, Business Week reprinted a cartoon showing labor pinned to the ground by the T-H law, an indication that it did not think that the T-H law "redressed the obvious imbalance which existed between the bargaining power of unions and management." In that same editorial it showed four ways that the T-H law could wipe out the trade union movement.

"These are the provisions," said Business Week, "which could do it: (1) picketing can be restrained by injunction; (3) employers can petition for a representation election; (3) strikers can be held ineligible to vote—while the strike replacements [the scabs—editor] cast the ballots; (4) if the outcome of this is a 'no-union' vote, the government may certify the employer."

"Any time there is a surplus labor pool [as exists today—editor] and at least token strike replacements, these four provisions, united together, presumably can destroy a union."

And having carefully forgotten what it said so well 10 months ago, Business Week sounds the campaign challenge for 1950's Congressional elections:

"Industry-wide bargaining won't be abolished by wishful thinking. Action is needed. The first step is to condition public thinking."

There's the propaganda blueprint for American industry to follow:

"It is up to the businessman to see that the traditional opportunities which the current crops of strikes provide, are fully realized. Employers—not only in coal and steel, but in every line—have an important responsibility to their own companies and to their country to think ahead.

"If industry gets the facts across to its own employees and to communities, these strikes may be a turning point. Every possible effort be made to feel his own great stake in management's refusal to go on appeasing labor bosses and in putting an end to industry-wide dictation by monopolistic labor leaders."

Can anyone doubt today what is the objective of American reaction when a responsible industry spokesman admits that the T-H law can wipe out American labor and, nevertheless, argues it don't go far enough?

Obviously, the fight for a free American labor movement has just begun.

Green Heads AFL Delegation To World Labor Conference

Green Congratulates Humphrey on Speech

AFL President William Green (right) congratulates Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, great Minnesota liberal, on fighting call to action made to 68th convention at St. Paul.

RESOLUTION PROPOSES MOTION PICTURE ON AFL

St. Paul.—A resolution was submitted to the AFL's 68th convention urging the AFL to sponsor production of a full-length feature motion picture on the birth and growth of the nation's biggest labor organization.

The proposal was one of 8 submitted by various branches of the federation urging the AFL to tell its story in motion pictures and literature.

The others urged more money for workers' education, literature for high schools and colleges, and film shorts on such labor subjects as "How to Negotiate a Contract."

Other resolutions advocated extension of social security law coverage, improved working conditions for government employees and repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

JOB PLACEMENTS RISE TO HIGH PEAK FOR '49

Washington.—More nonagricultural job placements were made by the local offices of state employment services in August than in any previous month during the year, the Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security reported.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the bureau, reported to Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin that with the exception of the transportation equipment field, placements in all major nonagricultural industry groups increased over July.

"Total job placements made by the state employment services during August amounted to 1,362,500, including 451,700 nonagricultural and 910,800 agricultural job placements," Goodwin said.

Electrical Workers Study Resolutions

J. Scott Milne (left), secretary-treasurer, and Dan W. Tracy, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and AFL vice president, study resolutions at St. Paul convention.

Judges Pick Winner of Clerks' Contest

Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Action, and AFL President William Green, both seated, pick entry of Dan Berretjo, East St. Louis, Ill., as winner of readers' contest conducted by "The Advocate," official publication of the Retail Clerks International Association. Looking on are Retail Clerks' President Vernon Hoosewright and Secretary-Treasurer James A. DeFriigo.

Leads 10-Man Group to Help Form Anti-Red International

St. Paul.—President William Green will lead a 10-man delegation of the American Federation of Labor to London next month to help form a new anti-Communist world labor federation.

For the AFL, the London conference will bring to full realization a goal toward which Mr. Green, backed by the 8,000,000 AFL members, has been striving since the end of World War II.

The AFL opposed the dissolution of the old International Federation of Trade Unions in 1945 and refused to join the World Federation of Trade Unions on the grounds that it was Communist controlled. Time proved the accuracy of the AFL's charge and British, American and other free democratic trade unions have now withdrawn from the discredited Communist organization to establish a new world labor movement.

The AFL delegation will represent one-fifth of the 40,000,000 organized workers from 35 countries to be represented at the London meeting beginning Nov. 28.

Mr. Green announced at a post-convention meeting of the executive council that other members of the AFL group to London are:

Vice Presidents Matthew Woll, Photo-Engravers Union; George M. Harrison, president Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; David Dubinsky, president International Ladies Garment Workers; W. C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers; Charles J. MacGowan, president Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America; Secretary-Treasurer George Meany; Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe; George P. Delaney, AFL international representative, and Henry Ruta, AFL representative in Germany.

Mr. Green said that three members of the group will later be designated a committee of three to make a survey of conditions in Israel at the invitation of Histadrut, the Israeli federation of labor and base of the country's democratic government.

The next meeting of the executive council will be held starting Jan. 29 in Miami.

The 68th convention pledged full support to the new international labor organization.

"To the freedom-loving workers of all lands," the AFL said, "we pledge our full moral and material support in behalf of making the new world labor body not only a truly international federation of free trade unions, but a most powerful force for peaceful social progress, social justice, human freedom and lasting peace."

The convention said its fight against the World Federation of Trade Unions was not a mere negative struggle. It pointed out the AFL has continuously striven for the organization of a united world federation of free trade unions.

Full approval was given to the executive council, international labor relations committee, free trade union committees, and various AFL representatives "in promoting the healthy realignment in the ranks of world labor leading to the holding of a foundation congress of a bona fide international federation of genuine free trade unions."

These groups were commended for "speeding the breakup of the WFTU, which never was anything else but an instrument of Soviet imperialism and totalitarian communism." The convention warned against underestimating the damage that the Russian-controlled organization still can do. It said:

"It would be extremely difficult to exaggerate the damage done to economic reconstruction in the democratic countries of Europe by this tool of the Cominform at the height of its strength. It would be dangerous folly to underestimate the damage and sabotage this Kremlin-controlled apparatus, even in its much weakened condition, can still inflict on economic reconstruction and national security in the western European lands.

"Indeed, there is no longer even the slightest excuse for any self-respecting free trade union organization to continue affiliation or have anything to do with this notorious Russian Bolshevik colossus agency. We appeal particularly to those bona fide trade union bodies of France, Italy and Israel that still have relations with the so-called WFTU to lose no time in severing them."

The convention said that every affiliate and member of the AFL has every reason to be proud of the contribution the AFL has made to speeding up the breakup of the WFTU and laying the groundwork for the new organization of free democratic trade unions.

THANKS AFL FOR AID

St. Paul.—Ejler Jensen, president of the Danish Trades Union Congress, told the 68th convention that trade unions in the Scandinavian countries think and feel the same way as the AFL. He thanked the AFL for its support of Marshall Plan aid for Denmark and other European countries.